

CMTS Wins Prestigious Award

By Brian Blower, Transportation Leadership Program Participant



***MARAD's CMTS working group members with the Partnering for Excellence Award .
Left to Right: Maggie Blum, Richard Lolich, Thomas Bryan, Kevin Krick, and Brian Blower.
Not shown are Wassel Mashagbeh, and Richard Walker.***

The Committee on Marine Transportation System (CMTS) working group was recently awarded the prestigious "Partnering for Excellence" Award at the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary's 38th Annual Awards Ceremony in Washington, DC. This award is the second highest award given by the Department and the highest award given for team work, which promotes intermodal partnering efforts furthering the "One DOT" concept.

The CMTS working group, which was created at the direction of President Bush in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, now allows critical marine transportation system (MTS) issues of national importance to be elevated to the highest levels of government. The CMTS working group brought together employees from the Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security as a core team to begin creating the framework of a cabinet-level committee on the MTS chaired by the Secretary of Transportation. The extensive groundwork laid by the working group resulted in the drafting of a charter for the cabinet-level committee and the creation of a new partnership of federal departments, their operating administrations, and independent agencies with independent responsibilities affecting the MTS.